

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 SS-15 NIC-01 IO-10 /074 W

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P R 041110Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2431

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USNATO 1280

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO

SUBJ: TITO ATTACKS SOVIETS AND BULGARIANS FOR DISPARAGING
YUGOSLAV WORLD WAR II ROLE

1. SUMMARY. TITO HAS DELIVERED A BLISTERING ATTACK ON SOVIET AND BULGARIAN DISPARAGING OF YUGOSLAV ROLE AND SACRIFICES IN WORLD WAR II, AND PUT YUGOSLAV COMINFORMISTS IN SAME CATEGORY WITH USTASHIS AND CHETNIKS. HE PLAYED THE PART OF ASTUTE DOMESTIC POLITICIAN IN CHOOSING MACEDONIA WHERE FEELINGS ABOUT BULGARIA RUN HIGHEST TO MAKE SPEECH. END SUMMARY.

IN APRIL 2 SKOPJE SPEECH TITO TOOK OFF GLOVES TO REBUT RECENT BULGARIAN AND SOVIET STATEMENTS WHICH DISPARAGED YUGOSLAVIA'S ROLE AND SACRIFICES OF 1.7 MILLION PEOPLE (SIC) IN WORLD WAR II. "ALL THA
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IS BEING DONE NOW TO DENY OUR STRUGGLE IS WASTED BREATH; THEY CAN'T SUCCEED AT THAT. FOR WE ARE STILL HERE AND ALIVE, AND WE WILL CONSTANTLY SHOW WHAT IS THE TRUTH AND WHAT IS BEING SUBSTITUTED FOR IT."

3. OBVIOUSLY ANGERED OVER RECENT SOVIET AND BULGARIAN WRITINGS WHICH FAILED TO GIVE DUE CREDIT TO THE YUGOSLAV CONTRIBUTION, TITO DID SOME HISTORICAL LECTURING OF HIS OWN. ACCORDING TO TITO, IN OCCUPIED EUROPE ONLY YUGOSLAV PARTISANS RAISED AN ARMY AND BEGAN RESISTANCE IN 1941, FENDING FOR THEMSELVES UNTIL FIRST OUTSIDE AID ARRIVED IN 1943 AND MAINLY IN 1944 "VIA ITALY" (AND BY IMPLICATION FROM WEST). ONLY IN FALL OF 1944 AND IN 1945 DID SOVIETS DELIVER HEAVY WEAPONS. "FIGHTING ON THE SIDE OF THE ALLIES", YUGOSLAVIA LOST TENTH OF ITS PEOPLE. AS FOR BULGARIAN CLAIM OF HAVING LIBERATED MACEDONIA AND LARGE AREAS OF YUGOSLAVIA, TITO NOTED SARCASTICALLY THAT BULGARIANS WERE IN YUGOSLAVIA AS "OCCUPIERS" UNTIL 1944. HE SAID THAT LATER, AS RESULT OF RUSSIAN ARM TWISTING, HE HAD AGREED TO LET BULGARIANS TAKE LIMITED PART IN RED ARMY'S SWEEP THROUGH ONE CORNER OF YUGOSLAVIA. "WE WERE WITH THE SOVIET UNION FROM THE BEGINNING AND WHO ELSE, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW, OF THOSE WHO NOW THUS DISPARAGE OUR SACRIFICES" ASKED TITO.

4. TITO NOTED FURTHER THAT YUGOSLAVS WERE LABELED AS REVISIONISTS WHEN THEY WERE "ANATHEMATIZED" BY STALIN IN 1948, BUT SAID HE WAS NOT TOTALLY OPPOSED TO LABEL SINCE IT WAS A REVISIONISM WHICH SOUGHT EQUALITY AMONG PARTIES AND RIGHT TO SEPARATE ROADS TO SOCIALISM. FORCED TO BUILD YUGOSLAVIA "ALONE", I.E., OUTSIDE THE BLOCK, TITO SAID THE GOY HAD TO TURN TO "WESTERN USURERS" AND BANKERS WHOSE ASSISTANCE BROUGHT HIGHEST INTEREST RATE AND WHO FORCED THE GOY TO ACCEPT "DEBTS OF THE FORMER REGIME".

5. TITO CONNECTED DEPRECIATION OF YUGOSLAVIA'S WAR RECORD WITH NEED TO STRENGTHEN RANKS OF LCY. THOSE WHO LEFT PARTY FOR PERSONAL OR OTHER REASONS WOULD BE TAKEN BACK IF THEY WISHED TO RETURN, HE SAID, BUT "THOSE WHO NEGATE WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN OUR STRUGGLE AND IN THE POST-WAR CONSTRUCTION "" WE DON'T WANT TO SEE THOSE IN OUR RANKS. THEY TAKE THE SAME LINE AS THE USTASHIS AND CHETNIKS ABROAD, WHO MURDER OUR REPRESENTATIVES. FOR THEY ALSO SPEAK THE SAME WAY."

6. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO USUAL PROMINENT MEDIA COVERAGE HERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TITO'S SPEECH ALSO WAS REPORTED IN NON-ALIGNED PRESS POOL FOR ALL OF THIRD WORLD TO SEE.

7. AS ASTUTE POLITICIAN IN GUISE OF OLD WARRIOR, TITO CHOSE TO DELIVER SPEECH TO MACEDONIANS WROUGHT UP OVER REGULAR BULGARIAN DENIALS OF EXISTENCE OF ITS MACEDONIAN MINORITY -- SOON TO BE REPEATED IN BULGARIAN CENSUS.

8. TIMING OF SPEECH ALSO PROBABLY WAS CALCULATED. THE YUGOSLAVS RECENTLY REACTED SHARPLY TO BULGARIAN (AND SOVIET) HONORS ACCORDED FORMER YUGOSLAV COMINFORMIST MARKOVSKI, WHICH YUGOSLAVS TOOK TO BE OFFICIAL ENCOURAGEMENT OF COMINFORMISM AND WARNED THAT SUCH ACTS ARE AFFECTING PARTY RELATIONS. RUMORS HAVE CIRCULATED HERE THAT A GROUP OF PRO-BULGARIAN COMINFORMISTS HAS POPPED UP IN MACEDONIA, AND ONE MACEDONIAN OFFICIAL IN DENYING RUMOR TOLD US THERE HAD HOWEVER BEEN INDIVIDUAL MANIFESTATIONS. MACEDONIANS AND OTHER YUGOSLAVS WITH WHOM EMBASSY HAS HAD CONTACT HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR FEELING THAT SOVIETS HAVE PUT THE BULGARIANS UP TO MISCHIEF AS A MEANS OF GOADING YUGOSLAVIA. WHETHER THIS IS THE CASE OR NOT, FACT THAT YUGOSLAVS CHOSE TO BELIEVE SO MAKES IT A FACTOR IN POLITICAL SCENE. TITO MINCED NO WORDS -- COMINFORMISTS ARE THE SAME AS USTASHIS. AND NO ONE HERE WILL FORGET THAT COMINFORMISTS WITH TIES TO THE SOVIET UNION WERE PUBLICLY EXPOSED LAST YEAR.

9. WITH EVENT ONLY MONTH AWAY, TITO HAS THUS SET STAGE FOR 30TH ANNIVERSARY VICTORY CELEBRATION WHICH WILL HONOR YUGOSLAV, NOT SOVIET ,
ROLE IN LIBERATION OF THIS COUNTRY.

10. REFERENCE TO TITO-STALIN 1948 BREAK IN SAME TERMS YUGOSLAVS HAVE USED TO EXPOUND LCY POSITION ON CONVENING OF EUROPEAN CP CONFERENCE WOULD SEEM TO RULE OUT ANY SOFTENING OF YUGOSLAV POSITION ON THAT ISSUE, AND LIKELY WAS MEANT AS AN ADDITIONAL SIGNAL TO THE SOVIETS IN CASE ONE WAS NEEDED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WORLD WAR II, SPEECHES, COMBAT OPERATIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELGRA01617
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750117-0207
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750482/aaaacwzq.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TITO ATTACKS SOVIETS AND BULGARIANS FOR DISPARAGING YUGOSLAV WORLD WAR II ROLE
TAGS: PFOR, YO, (TITO, JOSIP BROZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006